

April 1, 2002 Areawide Soil Contamination Task Force Meeting

## Associated Lead and Arsenic Related Activities

*What are the various other activities around the state dealing with lead and arsenic contamination?*

### Soil Related Issues

#### **Western Washington**

##### ASARCO Ruling

- ✓ Supreme Court affirmed that the time is not ripe for review. The Superior Court decision has been vacated.

##### Tacoma Smelter Plume (TSP) Project

- ✓ TSP Advisory Group
  - Focus group to identify and consider residential property value issues within TSP and propose recommendations to reduce negative impacts to residential property values
  - Duration --
    - Meetings completed by June
    - March 6; April 24; final meeting TBA
    - Report due to Ecology in August
- ✓ Mainland Study
  - To determine extent and magnitude of the Tacoma Smelter Plume
  - Open House information session scheduled for local governments and schools on April 2 and 3 – Bellevue; King County/City Managers and evening at Highline Community College
  - Data release April 4
  - Auburn paper published an early article on the study
- ✓ Pilot Sampling Project
  - Anticipated with the planning departments in Normandy Park and Tukwila
  - Local administration of routine sampling and remediation within the TSP area
- ✓ VCP on Vashon Schools
  - Conceptual discussion about the possible range of remediation approaches with the Vashon superintendent of schools including a matching grant or SHA funds.
  - Local heightened interested due to recent mold contamination at the High School

✓ SHA Grant October 2001

- Initiating undisturbed and residential soil sampling in Tacoma/Pierce County to determine an area-wide footprint for lead and arsenic.
- Next step is to sample child use areas in the fall 2002.

Everett Smelter Site

- Remediated 38 properties to-date
- Upcoming plans for this construction season include remediation on properties selected from among 16 identified homes in the area.

**Eastern Washington**

SHA Grants

- Presentation at Environmental Health Directors meeting in Leavenworth
- Okanogan County SHA proposal expected including the scope of work for investigating child use areas. Activities will be similar to TSP approach.

Reconnaissance Study

- Conducted in 1999 by Ecology
- The reconnaissance study was conducted to determine if lead and arsenic were present in soil at selected homes, parks, and schools.
- Soil sampling was conducted at sites volunteered by agency staff, the cities, and counties.

**Other Related Issues**

Mining Issues

- Drinking water provided to residents in Twisp due to elevated As levels in wells adjacent to a former ore processing facility
- Lake Roosevelt – Currently, the upper lake sediments and water, as well as several formerly operating mines and mineral processing facilities, are being investigated by the USEPA's Superfund Branch to evaluate the nature and extent of these issues, and determine whether it should be placed on the National Priority List for cleanup.

Arsenic Drinking Water Task Force

- EPA recently issued a new regulation lowering the amount of arsenic allowed in public drinking water systems. The Washington State Department of Health has formed an agency task force to

develop ways to implement this complex regulation. An important focus of the task force is to develop effective communication strategies including messages for stakeholders that explain the regulation, its public health benefits, and the processes needed for its implementation.